

**Libby Area Technical Assistance Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 53, Libby, MT 59923
November 11, 2003 Board Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Bob Beagle	Jerry Hersman	George Keck
Charlene Leckrone	Clinton Maynard	Red Morton
Mary Tevebaugh	Barb Guthneck	Jon Reny
Gordon Sullivan	Scott Supernaugh	Les Skramstad
Mike Crill	Jim Christiansen	Wendy Thomi

III. Bob Beagle made a motion that the October 7, 2003 minutes be approved, Jerry seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

IV. George announced that the next Board meeting will be December 9, 7:00 PM County Annex Basement. Jon Reny suggested that future Board meetings could be held at the College. George said that would be a good option and although we would go ahead and have the Dec meeting at the Annex, he would check out the college and it's schedule for conference room in time to report for the next Board meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Budget/Funding/Progress Status – Barb/George presented two charts which showed we were well within our grant requirements of: over 20% in-kind efforts and under 20% expenditures in administration. A budget sheet was produced that showed the rate of expenditure (29%) of the actual grant. George asked if this satisfied the Board's queries into financial performance. Jerry said he could see we were on track and was satisfied.

B. Tiger Team Updates

Education – (Sandy Wagner) – Sandy was absent so this report was tabled.

Survey – (Mary Tevebaugh) – Mary said she will be getting surveys from Wendy from several sources and will report at the December meeting.

Advocacy Issues – (Rick Flescher & Red Morton) – Gordon said the Siefke issue was handled to their satisfaction and the Boat Ramp is proceeding to the satisfaction of those previously concerned.

Charlene questioned the article that was in the paper that quoted Jim as saying the Boat Ramp clean up cut into the number of homes that got cleaned up this year. She wanted to

know who made that decision. George said that this was a decision made by Jim.

Nominating Committee – Bob Beagle – He talked to Board members and they said they were well satisfied with the current officers. He had asked Jerry and George and they were OK with continuing but Mary would like someone else to step forward into the Secretary Treasurer position. George asked Bob to try to find someone or try to convince Mary to stay on.

C.-O&M Work Group Report – George reported that Charlene, Rita, Sandy Methaney-Fennessy (representing HCI), Jim, Wendy and himself were the attendees at the Healthy Communities meeting called concerning formation of an O&M Work Group.

He said that Work Group stakeholders were identified as those who were financially responsible, the state, county, city and Port Authority and possibly the homeowner. He said EPA is considering hiring a facilitator for the group. George said that TAG can help it along by being an observer participating to a degree that will ease TAG's eventual review of the EPA's O&M Plan. He said after EPA formalizes their proposed O&M Plan utilizing O&M Work Group input, TAG then in turn performs their formal review and comment. George said that the O&M could conceivably be six years off, at least, before we are dealing with it. Gordon said the State has to be involved all along.

D. Annual Meeting (Officer/Board Election) – Bob Beagle reported that he is still seeking persons to run for the Secretary Treasurer position and will have a ballot ready for voting at the Annual meeting.

E. Community Interagency & Crisis Communication Workshop Letters.

George advised the board that the Executive Committee approved two letters during the month, one to Libby Community Interagencies, Inc. supporting their tobacco prevention grant and one to Alvin Chun thanking him for the training he put on for the community.

F. Action Item Status/Update – Dates for expected completion and those acknowledged as complete were added (see attachment). Scott said that the monitor placement sampling was being done, that the script of the video was being worked on.

G. National Contingency Plan Training – (Gordon Sullivan) – Gordon gave a short training session on this.

VI. New Business

A. Mt. Dept of Environmental Quality Update – (C. French) Craig was not at the meeting and his report was deferred until next month.

B. EPA Update – (Jim Christiansen) – Clinton brought up EPA's Living with Vermiculite brochure and the errors he saw that needed to be corrected. Wendy and

Jim said that TAG had 30 days to review and respond and now it was too late, it was in print and sent out.

Jim told the TAG that the money allocated for Libby is less than he requested. He said, rather than the \$19 Million he requested he is slated to get \$15 Million which will mean that fewer homes will be cleaned up in 2005.

Jim announced that the new head of EPA will be coming to Libby in January, hopefully for a 2 to 3 day visit.

C. Technical Advisor's Update – (Gordon Sullivan) – Gordon advised the Board that he Red and John Povalinski are planning to go to Denver to talk to the EPA including Dr. Wise, Trost, Banz, Jim, Aubrey, Paul, the first week of December. Discussions will be of a technical, scientific nature and center on the risk assessment measurements. EPA is paying all travel.

Gordon reported on the Asbestos Conference he attended in Butte. He said he was able to meet with Abatement Contractors. He said that the state can fine \$10,000 a day with a cap of \$80,000 for botched abatement.

Work Plan for the Advocacy Program - Gordon handed out notebooks containing his proposed Property Owner Advocate Program and requested everyone to read it and comment later.

D. Potential Issues

Cleanup vs. Beautification Effort and

Homeowner Responsibility Threshold – These are areas in which construction consultants that Gordon is considering, could provide expert assistance. Such consultation would give credence to his analysis to his analysis of superfund site clean-up activity devoted to removal, restoration and beautification; clarifying in the process contractor/homeowner responsibility interface.

Risk Assessment & Cleanup Precautionary Measures

and

Technical Advisor Use of Scientists – George stated that Gordon is strongly considering hiring scientists to assist him with risk assessment analysis and if so, this would represent expenditures that could consume the current authorized grant dollars very quickly. The Board agreed we should go ahead with Gordon's recommendation to put the help he needs on retainer. Gordon said he will do some background investigation on the people he is considering before proceeding.

Supplemental Grants – George advised that the EPA has set aside \$200,000 for Montana's TAGS this fiscal year. Jerry made a motion and Bob Beagle seconded it, to pursue additional \$50,000 TAG grant funding (waiver of current \$50,000 limit), rather than other supplemental grants that weren't as applicable to our

efforts. The Board unanimously voted in agreement to obtain suitable contracted technical advisory scientist services, authorizing Barb to undertake writing an appropriate application request for supplemental EPA grant funding.

Policy & Procedure Conflicts

Code of Conduct – Clinton, Rita and Rich have not yet signed this. George asked the Board if they want to change the requirement or ask those who have not signed to sign, sign with exception, or resign. The Board along with the Board Membership category below said that we have the rules to sign the code of Conduct and attend meetings and should enforce them. George said this will be on the next Board Meeting agenda for resolution.

VII. Review and agreement on Action Items generated from this meeting

Other – Mike Crill brought up that he is bringing a lawsuit for an audit to find out where the money for the clean up is going. He gave examples of the Boothman property be placed on top of the Parker property with an approximate bill on the Parker property clean up of \$3 million to date. He had concerns about pond water with asbestos and other contaminants being used to decon equipment, thereby re contaminating equipment.

Scott said that the pond goes through a multi-staged 5 micron filter to catch all asbestos. Gordon and Scott volunteered to go with Mike to the creek and see what his issues are. Scott said the road is closed due to ice but Jerry said that the weather should break next week so they could go up on the site.

Mike said he wanted to let us know the issues he was working on in case we might be duplicating his efforts. George assured him that we can't be political as part of our charter, so there is no duplication.

VIII. Adjourn